(a) the number of temples demolished in Jammu and Kashmir during the last three years; and

(b) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Government of Jammu and Kashmir has advised that no temple has been demolished in the State during the last three years.

[*English*]

Tourist Permits to Foreigners

3907. SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether North-Eastern States including Sikkim have requested to Union Government that existing practice of issuing Tourist permits to foreigners should be scrapped;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is likely to deprive the country from rich source of foreign exchange and is likely to effect the earning of hotel industry, transport sector and various other services of concerned States; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The North Eastern States, including Sikkim, have requested to either scrap or relax existing Restricted Area permit/protected Area permit system.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. A number of places of tourist interest in these States have been opened for foreign tourists. Foreigners can visit these places after obtaining necessary permits from the competent authorities. Government is continuously reviewing the position in the interest of tourism and development of the region.

Strategy to Meet Terrorism

3908. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have chalked out any strategy to meet terrorism in various parts of the country under Central coordination at high-level;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). "Public Order" being the State subject, it is for the State Governments to devise various methods and take concrete steps to improve law and order situation. At the Central level, action is taken to facilitate coordination of the anti-terrorist operations of different States and to improve flow of information useful for control of terrorist activities among the States. All possible assistance is being provided to the State Governments, whenever required in this regard.

Assam Rifles in Manipur

3909. SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: